



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 14, 2004

S. 1301 **Video Voyeurism Prevention Act of 2004**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 12, 2004

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1301 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the legislation could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant. S. 1301 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1301 would make it illegal to videotape, photograph, or record individuals in certain states of undress when they have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Because the act would establish a new federal crime, the government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. However, we expect that S. 1301 would apply to a relatively small number of offenders, so any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under S. 1301 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as revenues, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases involved.

On August 5, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1301 as reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 24, 2003. The two versions of the legislation are very similar, and our cost estimates are identical.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.